

Flexible Optical Fiber Ribbon Cable, Fiber Optic Reformatter, and Method for Making Same Cable and Reformatter

Abstract

The inventive method and apparatus relate to fiber optic ribbon cable capable of being bent and curved through a very small bend radius. The method involves an improvement to the direct-melt ribbon-cable manufacturing process, creating ribbon cables with adhered ends, and un-adhered fiber centers. Such ribbon cable overcomes typical sideways bend radius limitations. This ribbon cable is a second aspect of the invention. A reformatter is further contemplated by this invention, wherein at least two of the inventive ribbon cables are arranged to form a rectangular array of optical fibers at one end and a linear array at the other, providing a compact optical fiber reformatter for use in space limited locations.